

THE PUBLIC FORUM

SENSE OF THEOLOGICAL VIEW.

—Take a man who has gone to the bottom of the subject of scientific evolution. He might have read the Koran and the bible and been a deep student of astronomy, geology, botany, philosophy, yet did he ever find a solid fact to stand on?

We will suppose that he follows the scientific and Darwinian theory to the end, until he comes to cosmos, atoms, etc. By that way of reasoning something must have come from nothing, and that theory is just as foolish as theology and kindred explanations.

Yet, I say, if a man who has reasoned that far and discovered a law and force within himself that benefits by following the precepts of, for example, Christ, what right have you or I to say he is wrong when he cannot point to a better way.—G. A. Fudt.

TENANT-MAKING TAXATION.—

One of your correspondents claims that the primal cause of poverty is the private or individual ownership of land. He would have us all paying rent to the government—a nation of tenants. My observation is that tenants always skin the land and do as little as they can to keep it in repair, while owners are the people who add to the value of land and are of real value to a community. Again, consider the injustice of taking the land from the people after they have toiled and slaved a lifetime to acquire it. It would be particularly distressing to the widows and orphans who are left without means of support other than land. Your correspondent could not seriously consider a scheme like that.

The rich banker, mill owner, merchant and saloonkeeper is relieved of all taxes on their plants and the home owner stands it all on his land, and this is what your correspondent calls justice. Where did his conception of

justice come from? We have a government to protect persons and property; justice seems to require that we pay proportionately or as near as we can for the protection we receive. If it costs \$10 a year to protect my person and \$5 to protect my house and \$5 my land, I should pay \$20 taxes on the outfit; but your correspondent would pile it all on the land and not consider the cost of protection to persons and houses and other personal property.

The land needs but little protection; it can't run away; the boy bandits can't slip into autos and carry it off; the fire won't burn it up; it matters but little about policemen; when you go home at night you always find it there. Then why burden it with taxes and let the troublesome property go free? Where is the justice of the making tenants of us all and exempting persons and personal property from taxation?—D. F. Sweetland.

ROPE TALK.—

There is a kind of system in The Forum editor's big-heartedness in giving contributors enough rope with which to hang themselves if they are so inclined. Resolved, however, that the Steven guy and a few others quit using The Forum as a matrimonial column. Broad hints about being a bachelor, about being past 45 and ready for "love's consummation," about having a beautiful set of whiskers and about how good the writer would be if the whole bunch of him could only find the maid or widow responsible enough to finance some project, if for only \$7,000.

I used to think I was as smart as "Age 46" thinks he is. Carnegie is 80, I believe, and with an intellect inferior to that of a girl of 16 and conduct befitting a well behaved boy of 12.

If a single and lasting love hasn't come to a man before physical maturity, then fishing for it afterwards may safely be called fortune hunting.